

Practical Theology - Grace Bible Church
Political Activism / A Christian's Relationship to Government

- 1) What are some of the various types of government described in the Scriptures which God sanctioned for rule over His people (Abraham to the Millennium)
- 2) According to the Scriptures, who ultimately establishes any particular leader in government?
- 3) What are the three major functions God has ordained of any government (Romans 13, etc.)?
- 4) To whom will every government leader be held responsible?
- 5) What are some of the various ways God has replaced leaders / governments that do not fulfill His purposes for government?
- 6) What are the responsibilities of Christians toward government?
- 7) In a democratic republic such as the United States, what additional responsibilities belong to its citizens?
- 8) What are the strengths and weakness of a democratic republic as a form of government?
- 9) Which is more important: The form of a government or the leaders in a government? Explain
- 10) What are some priorities of concern that should guide the Christian when voting for government representatives or on ballot issues? Rank these in order of importance to you.
- 11) Define politics. What are the limits of political involvement by Christians? By Churches? Explain
- 12) What is the origin of the phrase "*separation of church and state*" as applied in the Unites States and what did it actually mean?
- 13) What is wisdom and why is it important for any government leader to be wise? -See Proverbs
- 14) What is the importance of righteousness in a government and its leaders?
- 15) What is the importance of justice in a government and its leaders?
- 16) What factors determine whether a government is bad or good / successful or unsuccessful?
- 17) What was the cause of the American Revolution according to the Declaration of Independence? (Hint: it was not taxation)
- 18) As constructed in the United States Constitution, to what is the allegiance of its citizens supposed to be? (Hint: It is not Congress, the President or Supreme Court)
- 19) How are the three branches of government (Legislative, Executive, Judicial) in the United States supposed to function according to the U.S. Constitution?

20) Christians are citizens of their earthly country and Heaven (Phil. 3:17-21). Which must have the greater allegiance? Is a Christian in violation of Romans 13 for disobedience to a government directive that is contrary to a Biblical command / precept? Explain. What about U.S. citizens who disobey government directives that are contrary to the U.S. Constitution?

21) How did Paul use his Roman citizenship for the advantage of the gospel?

22) How did God use Paul's unjust treatment, though a Roman citizen, for advantage of the gospel?

23) In what ways are Christians the "*salt of the earth*" upon society? How can they lose that "saltiness"? How can a Christian insure he will keep that saltiness?

24) In what ways are Christians the "*light of the world*"? How can that light be hidden? How can a Christian insure he will keep his light shining?

Case 1: You are Christian living in a Communist land.

What should your general attitude be toward the government?

How should you respond to each of these situations:

You are directed to move to a new location

You are directed to do a different job

You are directed to abort your second child

You are directed to keep your religion private

Case 2: You are a Christian living in a country with a democratic republican form of government.

What should be your response in the following situations:

Imminent Domain is used to take your property.

The government outlaws your charitable business.

The government taxes you to pay for abortions.

The government passes laws to restrict the expression of your religion in public.

A government leader praises those who do evil while haranguing those who do good.

Case 3: The two major candidates for a political office are a self proclaimed socialist with a 75% rating by the National Right to Life and an economic conservative libertarian with a 75% rating by NARAL and the Hemlock Society. What is your response? What other factors would help you decide how to vote?

Case 4: What grid of priorities will you use to evaluate candidates for political office?